Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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- FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM BRIZILL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJECT: CABLE HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 27

TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 27.

1. ISRAEL: MORE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS? FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TOLD AMBASSADOR LEWIS JULY 26 THAT THE DECISION TO GRANT FULL OFFICIAL STATUS TO THREE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS MERELY COMPLETED A PROCESS BEGUN UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT BEGIN WAS NOT UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE LIKUD TO APPROVE THE FORMATION OF TWELVE NEW SETTLEMENTS ACROSS THE JORDAN. THE AMBASSADOR SPECULATES THAT BEGIN'S SETTLEMENTS POLICY MAY BE DISCLOSED IN TODAY'S KNESSET DEBATE ON THE OUTCOME
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OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

2. BEGIN VISIT ASSESSED. DAYAN WAS PLEASED AT BEGIN'S SUCCESS IN REUNITING BEHIND HIM THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JEWRY, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON DIVISIVE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HE HOPED SECRETARY VANCE WOULD PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS DURING HIS FORTH-

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COMING TRIP.

3. MOGADISCIO: AIR OF EXPECTANCY. THOUGH SOME DIPLO-
MATS IN MOGADISCIO (WHOSE SOURCES ARE QUESTIONABLE)
BELIEVE THE EITHIOPIANS WILL SOON INVADE SOMALIA, MANY
SOMALIS (WHOSE INFORMATION MAY BE NO BETTER) ANTICIPATE
VICTORY IN THE OGADEN. SIAD APPEARS TO HAVE RECOVERED
FROM HIS RECENT AUTOMOBILE MISHAP -- WHICH THE EMBASSY
IS SATISFIED WAS ACCIDENTAL.

4. SOMALIA PRESSES MILITARY AID REQUEST. SOMALIA'S
AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM HAS EMPHASIZED TO AMBASSADOR
CHAMBERS THE URGENCY OF MOGADISCIO'S APPEAL. HE CHARAC-
TERIZED SOMALI POLICY AS THE SEARCH FOR INDEPENDENCE
AND MAINTAINED THAT THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN HIS COUNTRY
WOULD BE GRADUALLY REDUCED.

5. OPEC: ANOTHER PRICE DISPUTE? UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA
BELIEVES THAT THE LINES ARE BEING DRAWN FOR ANOTHER BATTLE
WITHIN OPEC -- THIS TIME OVER PRICES FOR 1978. UTAYBA
WILL SOON TRAVEL TO CARACAS IN AN EFFORT TO INDUCE VENE-
ZUELA TO JOIN THE UAE AND SAUDI ARABIA IN A COORDINATED
MODERATE POSITION BEFORE ANY CONFRONTATION SURFACES.

6. SAUDIS PONDER SITUATION IN CHAD. THE SAUDIS HAVE NOT
RESPONDED TO A CHADIAN PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE, PRIMARILY
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BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY COULD DO THAT WOULD BE
EFFECTIVE. THEY CONSIDER THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT WEAK AND
BELIEVE IT WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO CONCLUDE A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT WITH THE REBELS. EMBASSY JIDDA NONETHELESS
BELIEVES THE SAUDIS WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN
A MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT.

7. SMITH READY TO TALK? RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS
CLAIMS IAN SMITH HAD TO CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION IN
ORDER TO PRESERVE HIS AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE THE SETTLE-
MENT TALKS. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED
DISCUSSIONS IN SALISBURY, AND IMPLIED THAT THIS TIME THE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD FIND SMITH MORE FLEXIBLE THAN
BEFORE. VANCE

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